

REMARKS

Receipt of the Office Action of January 12, 2007 is gratefully acknowledged.

Claims 15 - 28 have been examined and rejected under 35 USC 102 (b) over Karas.

This rejection has been carefully considered and is therefore respectfully traversed.

A feature of claim 15 requires that the pressure canal of the pressure pickup has at least one segment whose flow cross section is variable. The examiner alleges that this feature is disclosed by Karas in column 11, lines 1 to 10. The cited section of Karas reads as follows:

The flame arrestors 68, 70 have a combined characteristic flow resistance preferably of about 500 (psi)(sec)/in. sup. 3, and the overrange diaphragm 82 has a characteristic compliance or hydraulic capacitance preferably of about 0.0003 in. sup. 3/psi. The arrestors 68, 70 and the diaphragm 82 are, fluidwise, connected in series, and produce, with these particular parameters, a hydraulic time constant of about 150 milliseconds. This time constant allows the sensor to have high sensitivity to the pressure being measured while significantly attenuating high frequency perturbations, i.e., noise in the fluids being measured.

As far as can be understood from a reading of this passage, it discloses a specific flow resistance and a specific hydraulic time constant. However, it neither discloses nor suggests a variable flow cross section in the pressure canal. In terms of

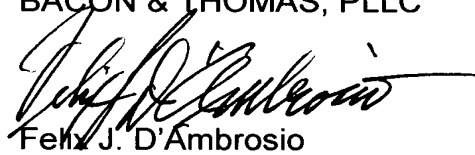
hydraulic modeling, the combination of a diaphragm and a canal connected in series is an RC-device which has an associated time constant, wherein R and C are fixed, i.e., they are not variable. By contrast, claim 15 requires a variable cross section which corresponds to a variable resistance.

For further clarity on this point, claims 15 and 16 have been combined to recite that the variable flow cross section depends on the velocity of the transfer medium in the segment.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and re-examination are respectfully requested and claims 15 and 17 - 28 found allowable.

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Respectfully submitted,
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